



Job Title: **Biological Science Technician**

Department: **Department Of The Interior**

Agency: **Interior, US Fish and Wildlife Service**

Job Announcement Number: **R5-15-1327288-KA (D)**

SALARY RANGE: \$31,944.00 to \$34,922.00 / Per Year

OPEN PERIOD: Friday, February 13, 2015 to Thursday, February 19, 2015

SERIES & GRADE: GS-0404-05

POSITION INFORMATION: Full Time - Temporary NTE 1 Year

PROMOTION POTENTIAL: 05

DUTY LOCATIONS: 3 vacancies in the following location(s):
Chatham, MA
Nantucket, MA
Wells, ME

WHO MAY APPLY: United States Citizens

SECURITY CLEARANCE: Not Applicable

SUPERVISORY STATUS: No

JOB SUMMARY:

Working for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is more than a career. It is a commitment shared by more than 9,000 men and women representing a diverse range of professions, backgrounds, and specialties who are dedicated to conserving, protecting, and enhancing fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats. From the Arctic Ocean to the South Pacific, the Atlantic to the Caribbean, Service personnel are working hard to ensure future generations will be able to enjoy nature's beauty and bounty.

You too can make a difference in our world. The work of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is meaningful and varied. Want to know more about what it is like to work for us?

Click here to watch short podcasts called [Meet Your New Boss!](#) and [Diversity is our Strength.](#)

This announcement is for three Biological Science Technicians that are full-time temporary positions. There is one position available at each of the following locations: Wells, Maine; Chatham, Massachusetts; and Nantucket, Massachusetts.

Nantucket, Massachusetts: Government housing is not available in this location and housing costs in the area are generally high.

Chatham, Massachusetts: The duties of this position will mostly be performed in a remote location. Incumbent will be required to stay at a remote field camp during work periods (5-6 days per week). When not staying in the field camp, government housing is available.

These positions may be extended up to a total of 2 years without further announcement.

Three or more positions may be filled from this vacancy.

TRAVEL REQUIRED

- Not Required

RELOCATION AUTHORIZED

- No

KEY REQUIREMENTS

- U.S. Citizenship
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DUTIES:

As a Biological Science Technician your duties will include, but are not limited to the following:

- Assisting biologists with piping plover and tern management.
 - Monitoring and managing of protected shorebirds on Federal and non-government land.
 - Conducting population surveys, locating and delineating nesting territories, locating nests, erecting symbolic fencing, constructing predator exclosures around nests and other forms of predator control, monitors nesting success, handling and banding of birds, and documenting disturbance factors affecting reproductive stress.
 - Maintaining working relationships with landowners, local communities, and recreational beach visitors to support the goals of endangered and threatened shorebird recovery plans.
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QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED:

You must meet all qualification requirements outlined within this vacancy by 11:59 PM (EST) on the closing date of this announcement, Thursday, February 19, 2015 .

In order to be qualified for this position you must meet the following *SELECTIVE FACTOR*:

SELECTIVE FACTOR: Applicants must demonstrate experience in identification, nesting habits, and monitoring of piping plovers or terns.

NOTE: If you do not show in your resume that you meet this *SELECTIVE FACTOR*, you will not receive further consideration for this position.

In order to be qualified for this position, you must also possess one of the following:

A. A Bachelor's or higher degree from an accredited college or university with a major field of study or at least 24 semester hours of study in biology, chemistry, statistics, entomology, animal husbandry, botany, physics, agriculture, or mathematics. At least 6 semester hours of the coursework must be directly related to the position being filled.

- OR -

B. At least one year specialized experience comparable to the GS-04 grade level or higher in federal service, such as assisting in the planning and management of piping plover and tern conservation, monitoring and protecting shorebirds, assisting with the implementation of wildlife population studies or surveys; conducting bird nest searches; recording scientific data in established databases or spreadsheets; summarizing data for inclusion in scientific reports; and utilizing various tools to maintain, repair, or protect wildlife and their habitat.

- OR -

C. A combination of experience as described under letter B above and education as described under letter A above which, when combined, is equivalent to 100% of the qualification requirement. (Only education in excess of the first 60 semester hours may be used in this calculation). To calculate your percentage of education, first determine the total number of semester hours that exceed 60 semester hours (or your school's definition of two years of study), then divide the total number of your excess semester hours by 60 (or your school's definition of two years of study). To calculate your percentage of qualifying experience, divide your total number of months of qualifying experience by 12. Now, add the two percentages together. The sum of the percentages must equal at least 100%.

Note: A full year of work is considered to be 35-40 hours of work per week. Part-time or unpaid experience will be credited on the basis of time actually spent in appropriate activities. Applicants wishing to receive credit for such experience must indicate clearly their duties and responsibilities in each position and the number of hours spent per week in such employment. For more information please visit, <http://www.opm.gov/qualifications/SEC-II/s2-e2.asp>

Are You Using Education to Qualify? You MUST submit a copy of your transcripts (official or unofficial photocopy) to document your educational accomplishments. Failure to submit this documentation by the closing date will result in

disqualification from further consideration. Official transcripts will be required if you are selected to fill the position. College transcripts are still required if you currently occupy or have previously occupied the series of the position to which you are applying.

Foreign Education: Education completed outside the United States must have been evaluated by a private U.S. organization that specialized in interpretation of foreign education credentials, commonly called a credential evaluation service or education that is recognized by the Secretary of Education from an accredited body. For more information please visit, <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ous/international/usnei/us/edlite-visitus-forrecog.html>

Only experience and education obtained by the closing date of this announcement will be considered. REQUIREMENTS:

- All new employees of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service must identify a financial institution for direct deposit of pay prior to appointment. New employees who are expected to travel on official business are required to apply for a Government travel charge card within 30 days of their appointment.
- A background security investigation will be required for all new hires. Appointment will be subject to the applicant's successful completion of the background security investigation and favorable adjudication. Failure to successfully meet these requirements will be grounds for termination.
- Incumbent must wear the official U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service uniform.
- A valid state driver's license is required.
- Unusual tour of duty required (e.g. weekends, holidays).

HOW YOU WILL BE EVALUATED:

Once the application process is complete, a review of your resume and supporting documentation will be made and compared against your responses to the assessment questionnaire to determine if you are qualified for this job. Qualified candidates will be assigned to a quality category: Best Qualified, Well Qualified, or Qualified. If, after reviewing your resume and/or supporting documentation, a determination is made that you have inflated your qualifications and/or experience, you may lose consideration for this position. Please follow all instructions carefully. Candidates are encouraged to ensure work experiences clearly show possession of the following knowledges, skills, and abilities, errors or omissions may affect your rating. Your qualifications will be evaluated on the following competencies (knowledge, skills, abilities and other characteristics).

- Skill in the identification, nesting habits, and monitoring of piping plovers and least terns.
- Knowledge of wildlife biology and techniques to protect piping plovers, least terns, and other northeast shorebirds / seabirds.
- Ability to capture, handle, and tag birds or other wildlife.
- Ability to communicate orally in order to meet and deal effectively with people of different backgrounds including landowners, representatives of Federal and state agencies, private organizations and the public.
- Skill in using various specialized tools and equipment required to conduct wildlife studies/surveys, such as scopes, GPS, radio telemetry equipment, wildlife cameras, video recorders, and mist nets.

BENEFITS:

The Federal government offers a number of exceptional benefits to its employees. This link provides an overview of the benefits currently offered to Federal employees: https://help.usajobs.gov/index.php/Pay_and_Benefits .

OTHER INFORMATION:

1. To claim veterans' preference, you must submit a copy of your DD-214 (member 4 copy), or other proof of eligibility. Veterans with a service connected disability and others claiming 10 point preference will need to submit a form SF-15 "Application for 10-Point Veterans' Preference" plus the proof required by that form. Missing information may result in a change or removal of your claim for Veteran's Preference. For more information please visit <http://www.fedshirevets.gov/job/vetpref/index.aspx> and <http://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/veterans-services/vet-guide/> .

2. Males born after 12-31-59 must be registered or exempt from selective service. www.sss.gov

3. Inter agency Career Transition Assistance Program (ICTAP): For information on how to apply as an ICTAP eligible please visit, http://www.opm.gov/rif/employee_guides/career_transition.asp#ictap. To be well-qualified and exercise selection priority for this vacancy, displaced employees must be rated at 85 or above on the rating criteria for this position.

4. If you are eligible for a special appointment authority such as those for the severely disabled and certain veterans and you meet the qualification requirements for this position you may be able to receive additional consideration for this position under a non-competitive hiring authority. Please contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 5, Human Resources Office in Hadley, MA (<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/ma/ro.html>). For more information regarding eligibility for special appointment authorities please visit, <http://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/disability-employment/hiring/>, <http://www.fedshirevets.gov/job/shav/index.aspx>.

5. All qualification requirements must be met by the closing date of this announcement. Additional information on qualification requirements is outlined in the OPM Qualifications Standards Handbook of General Schedule positions, <http://www.opm.gov/qualifications>.

HOW TO APPLY:

To apply for this position, you must complete the occupational questionnaire and submit the documentation specified in the Required Documents section below.

The complete application package must be submitted by 11:59 PM (EST) on Thursday, February 19, 2015 to receive consideration.

* To begin, click Apply Online to create a USAJOBS account or log in to your existing account. Follow the prompts to select your USAJOBS resume and/or other supporting documents and complete the occupational questionnaire.

* Click the Submit My Answers button to submit your application package.

* It is your responsibility to ensure your responses and appropriate documentation is submitted prior to the closing date.

* To verify your application is complete, log into your USAJOBS account, <https://my.usajobs.gov/Account/Login>, select the Application Status link and then select the more information link for this position. The Details page will display the status of your application, the documentation received and processed, and any correspondence the agency has sent related to this application. Your uploaded documents may take several hours to clear the virus scan process.

* To return to an incomplete application, log into your USAJOBS account and click Update Application in the vacancy announcement. You must re-select your resume and/or other documents from your USAJOBS account or your application will be incomplete.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

For this job announcement, the following documents are required:

- Resume
- Copy of college transcripts, if qualifying based on education
- Occupational Questionnaire
- Veterans documentation, if applicable
- SF-50 Notice of Personnel Action, if applicable

Faxing Applications or Supporting Documents:

You are encouraged to apply online. Applying online will allow you to review and track the status of your application.

NOTE: If you applied online and your application is complete, do not fax the paper application (1203FX) as this will overwrite your prior online responses and may result in you being found ineligible.

If you completed the occupational questionnaire online and are unable to upload supporting document(s):

1. To fax your documents, you must use the following cover page <http://staffing.opm.gov/pdf/usascover.pdf> and provide the required information. The Vacancy ID is 1327288.
2. Fax your documents to 1-478-757-3144.

If you cannot complete the Application Package online, you may fax all of your materials. The complete application package must be submitted by 11:59 PM (EST) on Thursday, February 19, 2015 to receive consideration. Keep a copy of your fax confirmation in the event verification is needed.

To complete the occupational questionnaire and submit via fax:

1. Click the following link to view and print the occupational questionnaire [View Occupational Questionnaire](#).
2. Print the 1203FX form, follow the instructions and provide your responses to the occupational questionnaire items <http://www.opm.gov/forms/pdfimage/opm1203fx.pdf>.
3. Fax the completed 1203FX form along with any supporting documents to 1-478-757-3144. Your 1203FX will serve as a cover page for your fax transmission.

AGENCY CONTACT INFO:

Kristin S. Anderson
Phone: (413)253-8594
Email: KRISTIN_ANDERSON@FWS.GOV

Agency Information:
US Fish and Wildlife Service Massachusetts
300 Westgate Center Drive
Hadley, MA
01035

WHAT TO EXPECT NEXT:

Once the online questionnaire is received you will receive an acknowledgement email that your submission was successful. After a review of your complete application is made you will be notified of your rating and or referral to the hiring official. If further evaluation or interviews are required you will be contacted.

Reminders: Your computer system's access is your responsibility to maintain. Undeliverable e-mails can cause loss of further consideration for this vacancy and/or the inability to convey information to you regarding it. Be sure to include on any correspondence your full given name and this job's vacancy identifier, 1327288. Please inform us of any changes to your personal contact information. If at any time you decide you no longer wish to be considered for this position, please notify us to withdraw your name. If you cannot be contacted, or do not respond to request for information, it may be grounds for not selecting you.

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